

The Library Assistant :

The Official Organ of the Library Assistants' Association.

No. 131.

DECEMBER, 1908.

Published Monthly

EDITORIAL.

Our present feelings are those of sorrow at the early and unexpected passing of our Honorary Fellow and consistent friend, Thomas Greenwood. On another page, a few words are said about his career; here, let it suffice to say that his loss is a really personal one to library assistants, who owe to him no small part of whatever advantages are theirs to-day.

We notice with interest that Scotland now possesses a Library Association which was inaugurated at Edinburgh on October 29th at a Meeting held under the presidency of Mr. Barrett, of Glasgow. Mr. James Craigie, of Perth, is the Honorary Secretary, and the new society will be affiliated to the Library Association. It is a pity it is not to be a branch, as these independent associations have a way of attracting members from larger bodies, and an organised single British Library Association is a real need.

Our North-Eastern friends must have been highly amused to read in *The Standard* on November 5th, and in other papers, that "Sunderland has discovered a way to lesson fiction reading among the public, and that this result is due to the open access system that for the first time in Great Britain has been instituted in that town." We know the further statement made in the paragraph that at the Hendon Branch the fiction percentage has gone down to 49, to be true, but we are afraid that the first part of the paragraph furnishes another proof of the ignorance of some of the great newspapers of the administration of public libraries.

Excellent reports again reach us from our branches. The Association is honoured in the appointment of the Chairman of its South Wales Branch, Mr. Harry Farr, to succeed Mr. Ballinger, as chief librarian of Cardiff. Mr. Farr has taken an active interest in the work of our Association, and that of the Library Association; his record is a worthy one and has been worthily rewarded. Mr. Jevons's address, of which we are provided, unfortunately, with an interesting *precis* only,

makes us wish we could have heard more of it. The North-Eastern Branch reports progress, and there is every prospect of a most successful gathering at Sunderland next month. Yorkshire is not behind, and an attractive social evening was passed on November 19th, of the value of which in cementing the members we have no doubts whatever. We would emphasize our announcements this month. Of the Registration Meeting, we spoke at length last month. We hope that a special effort will be made to ensure the success of the Thursday Meeting at South Kensington; we are greatly privileged in being allowed to have a meeting at this splendid library, and Mr. G. Palmer is making special arrangements for our entertainment and instruction. We are indebted to Messrs. G. A. Stephen and H. G. Sureties for the material used in the account of the funeral included in the obituary notice of Mr. Greenwood. Our block is provided by the kindness of Messrs. Scott, Greenwood and Son. We are compelled to hold over several reports until next month, including the *preçis* of Mr. Jevons's Address.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

A Special General Meeting is called by the Council for Wednesday, the 9th November, at 8 p.m., at the Public Library, Pitfield Street, Shoreditch, N. At this Meeting the Library Association Report on Registration and the L.A.A. policy thereupon will be considered, the discussion to be opened by the **President**, the **Honorary Secretary**, and Messrs. **Hopwood and Young**. Assistants are urged to attend this important gathering. The Report will be found in *The Library Assistant*, October, 1908, p. 197.

DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

The Second General Meeting of the Fourteenth Session will be held, by kind permission of the Board of Education, in the ART LIBRARY of the VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, SOUTH KENSINGTON, S.W., on **Thursday, the 17th December** (entrance from Exhibition Road).

7.30.—Light refreshments in the Museum Refreshment Rooms on the ground floor.

8.0.—Meeting in the Lecture Theatre, entrance from the Ceramic Gallery. Member's Paper: "Photographic Surveys in connection with Public Libraries," by **John Warner, Croydon Public Libraries**.

9.0.—Members will be shown the Art Library by the Keeper, Mr. G. H. Palmer, B.A. Some interesting works will be set out for inspection, and the Library methods explained.

A good attendance is earnestly requested for this most interesting Meeting.

NORTH-EASTERN BRANCH : DECEMBER MEETING.

The next Meeting of the North-Eastern Branch of the Library Assistants' Association will be held, by kind permission of Mr. J. A. Charlton Deas, Librarian and Director, at the Sunderland Public Libraries, Museum, and Art Gallery, on **Wednesday, December 16th, 1908**. Trains from Newcastle, 2.45 p.m.; South Shields, 2.38 p.m.

Programme.

- 3.15 p.m.—Assemble in the Museum (Borough Road), where members will be received by Mr. J. A. Charlton Deas. Time will be allowed for viewing the Winter Gardens; also the Art Gallery where an exhibition of Pictorial Photography by Sunderland photographers is at present being held.
- 3.45 p.m.—Proceed by car to inspect the recently opened **Hendon Branch Library** (Villette Road), the first Public Library in the North-Eastern district to be organised on the "open-access" system.
- 5.30 p.m.—Tea, by invitation of the Sunderland Libraries Staff.
- 6.30 p.m.—Re-assemble at the **Central Library**, Borough Road. Inspection of the Library and Museum.
- 7.0 p.m.—Meeting of Committee in the Deputy-Curator's Room.
- 7.30 p.m.—General Meeting in the **Art Gallery** :—
1. Member's Paper: "Stray thoughts of a Librarian," by **Miss M. A. Forman**, Victoria Library, Newcastle.
 2. Associate's Paper: "The Museum as an adjunct to the Public Library," by **R. N. A. Miller**, Central Library, Newcastle.

Members are requested to consider this notice the official intimation of meeting. Those intending to be present should inform the Hon. Secretary, Public Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, not later than December 12th.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH : DECEMBER MEETING.

The Second General Meeting of the Second Session will be held at the Central Library, Cardiff, on Wednesday, 16th December, at 8 p.m., when the subject of "Children's Halls" will be discussed.

Member's Paper by **Miss E. K. Jones**.

Associate's Paper by **Miss E. O. Davis**.

All library assistants are invited.

APPOINTMENTS.

- *ANDERSON, Mr. A. R., Senior Assistant, Port Elizabeth, S. Africa, to be Sub-Librarian.
- BALLINGER, Mr. JOHN, Chief Librarian, Cardiff (Hon. President, South Wales Branch, L.A.A.), to be Librarian of the National Library of Wales, Aberystwith.
- *FARR, Mr. HARRY, Deputy-Librarian, Cardiff (Chairman, South Wales Branch, L.A.A.), to be Chief Librarian.
- *JACKSON, Mr. C. PARRY, Senior Assistant, Woolwich, to be Assistant in the Library of the Royal Colonial Institute.

*Member, L.A.A.

THOMAS GREENWOOD.

A pioneer is dead. On Monday, November 9th, passed away suddenly of heart failure, at the comparatively early age of fifty-seven, Thomas Greenwood, Honorary Fellow of the Library Association, and of the Library Assistants' Association, the champion of the public library movement, the biographer of Edward Edwards, the friend of the librarian. For two years past, his health had been unsound; an enforced halt two years ago at an insanitary town in Japan, where he was condemned to drink contaminated water, led to the breakdown, and attacks of influenza left him with the heart-weakness to which he succumbed. Nearly ten years ago we described in these pages the stages of his career. His initial education was that of a village school, but he supplemented it by great reading at the Manchester Public Libraries. After brief experience as clerk and traveller, he became branch librarian in the Sheffield Public Libraries for three years. Thence he went to London to join the staff of *The Ironmonger*; but the advantages he had received at Manchester and his training at Sheffield remained ever before him, and he devoted himself sedulously to the promotion of the cause of public libraries and public librarians. He combined with a colleague later to found the firm which afterwards became Scott, Greenwood and Son, in which, at the time of his death, he was chief partner. Strenuous as was his business career, he found time to advocate the library movement by lectures, by writings, and carried on a voluminous library correspondence. His works were the tools of all library enthusiasts a generation ago. These include his "Public Libraries: a History of the Movement and a Manual for the Organisation and Management of Rate-Supported Libraries," which developed through successive editions into Greenwood's "British Library Year-Book," the last edition of which was published in 1900; a manual on "Museums and Art Galleries,"

Supplement to—
"The Library Assistant,"
December, 1908.—



PHOTO BY ALFRED ELLIS & WALERY, LTD.

Baker Street, London, W

THOMAS GREENWOOD

Honorary Fellow, L.A.; Honorary Fellow, L.A.A.

Born May 9th, 1851; died November 9th, 1908.

a brochure on "Sunday School and Village Libraries," and a "Life of Edward Edwards," besides numerous pamphlets. He published the first edition of Brown's "Manual of Library Economy," devoting the profits on it to the Library Association. He also added to his tribute to Edwards by erecting a granite monument over his grave in the churchyard at Niton in the Isle of Wight. To our Association he was unfailingly kind, encouraging and sympathetic. He signalled this in a very practical manner by his donation in 1899 of twenty pounds for a scheme of prizes for our members and other library assistants; several times he gave us donations of useful books, the most recent being eighty copies of his life of Edward Edwards. "I am delighted to learn of the continued success of the Library Assistants' Association," he wrote to the present writer in 1906. "That your Association is rendering excellent work is widely admitted in the profession. The spirit of comradeship which prevails among the members of your Association, and the manifest alertness in all that concerns the profession which the members display is an excellent forecast of the class of men which the municipal libraries will have as chief librarians in the future." The funeral took place at Golder's Green Crematorium on November 12th. The service was impressively read by his friend, the Rev. J. Howell-Williams, and the mourners included the members of his family, representatives of the firm of Scott, Greenwood and Son, of the Library Association, and the Library Assistants' Association was represented by Messrs. G. A. Stephens and H. G. Sureties. So passes Thomas Greenwood, a man of high principle, humility and kindness of heart, a great, self-made man. His strenuous life work was not of that blatant type which the world admires nor such as lives long upon the lips of men. But every day the unconscious thanks of thousands whose lives he has helped to brighten will be his, and in the broader culture and greater enlightenment of the future his influence will survive. *Magister ave atque vale; requiescat in pace!*

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING.

The November General Meeting of the Association was held at the South Audley Street Public Library, by kind permission of the Westminster Libraries Committee, on Wednesday, November 18th, at 8 o'clock p.m. The members, who numbered over forty, spent an interesting time before the meeting began in examining the methods and arrangement of the library. The meeting took place in the Reference library, and the President, Mr. W. Benson Thorne, occupied the chair.

THE NEW ANGLO-AMERICAN JOINT CODE OF CATALOGUING RULES.

Mr. Tedder said that when some months ago he accepted the suggestion that he should give them a description of the joint code of Cataloguing Rules compiled by Committees of the American and English Library Associations, he thought that copies would at that time have been ready for distribution. Unfortunately the Council of the Library Association had not yet completed their publication arrangements so that he had to describe what was virtually an unpublished work with the double disadvantage of speaking of matters difficult to follow and further with the possibility of incurring blame from the Council of the Library Association for prematurely divulging information. As, however, arrangements had been made ahead for the meeting he did not like to disappoint them.

He could only give a general idea of the code. In a subject involving so many points of detail it was impossible to explain everything, nor did he propose to defend every point decided, which, it should be remembered, had been the result of compromise between a number of conflicting opinions. Neither was it necessary to dwell upon the use or importance of cataloguing rules, although in the course of the famous British Museum Inquiry, one witness—a librarian—said that he very much objected to any rules for the compilation of catalogues.

Our modern rules in English for an Author-Catalogue were mainly based on the famous ninety-one rules of the British Museum compiled by a committee of our Panizzi, J. Winter-Jones, J. H. Parry, and Ed. Edwards, who after months of labour, presented the Rules for the approval of the Trustees in 1839. They had been published at the commencement of the first volume of the Printed Catalogue of the British Museum in 1841. They had been modified by Professor Jewitt (*Smithsonian Report on the Construction of Catalogues*, 1852), and by F. B. Perkins (*American Publisher*, 1869), and also by

Ed. Edwards (*Memoirs of Libraries*, vol. 2), and under their revised form had been the basis of the Library Association Rules.

Mr. Tedder then proceeded to give a short historical account of the origin and formation of the present Condensed Rules. In America the work had been commenced by a committee of the A.L.A., appointed September 5th, 1877, consisting of C. A. Cutter, A. R. Spofford, S. S. Green, J. N. Dyer, and L. E. Jones. The full text of the rules had been submitted to the Buffalo Conference (1883) and reprinted in Cutter's Rules for a Dictionary Catalogue. At the Montreal Meeting in 1900, questions of co-operative cataloguing were debated, more especially size and style of type, cards, and entry-rules. A Cataloguing Rules Committee had been appointed by the A.L.A. in December, 1900, and for several years they worked in the direction of harmonizing Cutter's Rules with those of the Library of Congress. In October, 1904, an important development took place; the A.L.A. having received from the Library Association a proposal suggesting a joint code of rules. The Library Association had begun about twelve months after the A.L.A. It was in December, 1878, that a Committee was appointed to draw up a report on title-entries and the "Cataloguing Rules of the Library Association of the United Kingdom" were duly submitted to the Manchester meeting in 1879. Frequent requests having been made for a re-issue, it was decided at Birmingham in 1902, to revise and re-edit the Rules, and a Committee having power to add to its number was appointed. At the Newcastle meeting in 1904, a printed draft of the Rules as revised to date was circulated.

When in 1904, Mr. Melvil Dewey learned that a committee was at work on the Library Association Rules, he suggested that the Library Association and the A.L.A. should unite in the production of an Anglo-American Code, with a view to establishing uniformity of practice throughout the English-speaking race. The Committee cordially approved of the suggestion and on their recommendation, it was adopted by the Library Association. Mr. Jast was officially authorized to bring this recommendation before the A.L.A. at their Annual Meeting at St. Louis in 1904. The proposal was agreed to by the A.L.A. At the Cambridge Meeting (1905) at which Miss Kroeger attended on behalf of the A.L.A. Committee, and at the Bradford Meeting (1906), the Committee reported progress, and at the latter meeting the Library Association empowered its Committee to proceed with and conclude such

further negotiations with the A.L.A. Committee as might be necessary for the issue of the joint code.

In September, 1906, Mr. Minto was able to write to the A.L.A. Committee as follows:—

“My Committee are of opinion that the two draft codes (English and American) have reached such a stage of agreement as to warrant printing as soon as possible, and we have been authorized by the Library Association to proceed with and to conclude such further negotiations with your Committee as may be necessary for the issue of a joint code. We think that the code should be printed in two editions (English and American), but that the editions should as far as possible be identical in arrangement and wording, and that where a divergence of opinion between the two Committees exists with respect to a particular rule, that such difference of opinion should be explained either in a note appended to the rule in question or by the printing of the two rules side by side, showing which is which.”

Following the receipt of this letter, the American Committee proceeded to prepare its rules for final submission to the Association, and at the annual meeting in May, 1907, copies of the code, as revised to date, were submitted. Mr. Hanson, on returning to America, after the Glasgow Meeting, reported that an agreement had been reached on all the rules, with the exception of a few which dealt with authors and publications that changed their names or titles.

The policy of the code had been to give occasional alternatives and exceptions. A certain discretion had been left. It had been the aim of the two Joint Committees to lay down a governing principle, but yet to make exceptions in certain cases. In the opinion of Mr. Cutter (Rules): “The convenience of the public is always to be set before the ease of the cataloguer. In most cases they coincide. A plain rule, without exceptions, is not only easy for us to carry out, but easy for the public to understand and work by. But strict consistency in a rule of uniformity in its application sometimes lead to practices which clash with the public's habitual way of looking at things. When these habits are general and deeply rooted, it is unwise for the cataloguer to ignore them, even if they demand a sacrifice of system and simplicity.”

The English Committee freely acknowledged that the greatest part of the work had been carried out in America. Cutter's Rules, those of the Library of Congress, Linderfelt's Eclectic card cataloguing Rules, formed the basis. Much

use had been made of the Prussian University and Government Library Rules. It had been felt that the Prussian "Gesamtkatalog" might, in course of time, lead to co-operative efforts which would have an important bearing on similar undertakings outside Germany.

While there was little likelihood of agreement on the two fundamental points of difference between German and Anglo-American Rules, viz., Entry of Anonymous books and Corporate entry, and while the committee had not had any correspondence or direct relations with representatives of the German movement, it had been felt desirable in this new revision to take due cognizance of the instructions promulgated by the Ministry of Public Worship in Prussia with reference to the "Gesamtkatalog," and to bear in mind the possibility of future international agreement and co-operation. As set forth on the title-page, the Rules were restricted to Author and Title-Entry only. No directions had been given for added entries, nor references under subject or form headings. Special attention, however, had been given to the examples, and here the Joint Committee would welcome co-operative help.

No abbreviations had been used in the body of the rules which should require any explanation. In appendix I. an attempt had been made to supply a tentative list of the abbreviations which were most likely to be called for in the ordinary library catalogue. General directions for their use had been added.

In view of the considerable diversity found to exist in methods of capitalization not only between different countries, but between different writers of the same country, the Committee had felt that for the present, only general directions should be submitted, but for those who might desire more explicit instructions, a revision of the capitalization rules contained in the A.L.A. Rules—Advance Edition of 1902, p. 16-17, had been appended.

Mr. Tedder then went through the Rules, which numbered 174, pointing out those which were of special interest, and drawing attention to the differences and exceptions, together with the alternative rules. The full title of the publication was "Cataloguing Rules: Author- and Title-Entries, compiled by Committees of the American Library Association and of the Library Association. English edition, London: published by the Library Association, at 24, Whitcomb Street, 1908, 4-to., pp. xii, 1-88." After a list of the two Committees and a short preface, there followed a list of contents and four pages of definition of terms. The rules were thus classified: Entry and Heading (personal authors, corporate bodies as authors,

title-entry, miscellaneous rules); Titels; Imprint, Collation, Series note; Contents, Notes, Added Entries, Analytical Entries, References, Capitals, Punctuation, Figures; Appendixes (Abbreviations, Translation, Sample Cards). Many supplementary rules were added in smaller type from the Library of Congress Rules.

The names of the members of the two Committees were: AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: J. C. M. Hanson (Library of Congress) *Chairman*, Alice B. Kroeger (Drexel Institute, Philadelphia) *Secretary*, W. S. Biscoe (State Library Albany, Nina E. Browne (A.L.A. Publishing Board), T. F. Currier (Harvard College Library), A. H. Hopkins (Carnegie Library, Pittsburg), E. C. Richardson (Princeton University Library). To these should be added the names of Mr. C. A. Cutter and Mrs. Fairchild. The names of the LIBRARY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE were: H. R. Tedder (Athenæum) *Chairman*, J. Minto (Signet Library, Edinburgh) *Secretary*, F. T. Barret (Glasgow), J. D. Brown (Islington), W. E. Doubleday (Hampstead), G. K. Fortescue (Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum), H. Guppy (John Rylands Library, Manchester), E. W. Hulme (Patent Office Library), L. Inkster (Battersea), L. Stanley Jast (Croydon), T. W. Lyster (National Library of Ireland), G. T. Shaw (Athenæum, Liverpool), C. W. Sutton (Manchester). Acknowledgment should be made to Mr. Minto for his unceasing and unsparing self-denial for which the Library Association at their recent meeting at Brighton passed a special and very cordial vote of thanks.

Mr. Tedder concluded by saying that, in his judgment, the new Code of Cataloguing Rules was a very important and useful piece of work, creditable to those who had laboured upon it, and creditable to the two Associations which had produced it. It had been the result of compromise, and possessed the merits of compromise. Compromise was the vital force of all progress, the whole of nature depended upon it. Let them not forget the wise words of Burke: "Every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act, is founded on compromise and barter. We balance conveniences; we give and take; we remit some rights that we may enjoy others."

With what tact and good feeling that policy had been kept in view by both Committees, would, Mr. Tedder thought, be seen when he read two paragraphs from the reports of both Committees, each written entirely without any knowledge of what had been in the mind of the other Committee.

"We wish to express our most cordial appreciation of the kindly and generous way in which the British Committee have invariably met our suggestions. The spirit in which it has received our proposals is in a large measure responsible for the success which has attended the negotiations." (From the report of the American Library Association Committee).

"The Committee cannot conclude their labours without warmly thanking the members of the American Cataloguing Rules Committee, including the delegates, for the courteous and sympathetic consideration given to the suggestions of this Committee, which alone made it possible for a joint code to be produced." (From the report of the Library Association Committee).

Discussion.

Mr. JAST (Croydon), whose interest in the Code had brought him to Westminster, expressed appreciation of the way Mr. Tedder had presented its general scheme to them. He thought the Code a great achievement with all its merits and demerits. Some might regret that the Code was not an international one. But there was one great objection, that, at present the Continental practice differed from the Anglo-American practice. He thought, however, that the Anglo-American Code would serve as the foundation of an International Code. Indeed, if the Library Association had done nothing but bring into being that Code, it had at last done something to triumphantly justify its existence. He was inclined to think the rules were far too many, owing to a large number of the rules being applications in detail of principal rules. He also had no doubt that every library would have its own particular reasons for departing from the rules. He pointed out the influence of the printed cards of the Library of Congress in securing uniformity of practice in America, and said that without some such compelling agency in this country, it was hopeless to expect uniformity. Mr. J. D. STEWART (Islington), also expressed his appreciation of the way Mr. Tedder had expounded the Code. Until the Code was in everyone's hands, did not see how they could do it justice, in spite of the elucidatory way that Mr. Tedder had presented its general trend. He did not think that it would be universally adopted. The interesting thing to most assistants present, was that it would form a subject for the L.A. examinations, and it would naturally influence the cataloguing practice of the future. Mr. HOGG (Battersea) objected to the rule which preferred family names before titles; one would naturally turn

to Rosebery, and not to Primrose, to Argyll rather than Campbell. He also quoted the case of the names Stevenson and Osborne, and said no one would think of looking under the name of Osborne. He thought cataloguing practice was largely a question of memory. He objected to concordances and biographies being placed under the name of their subject, as though he were the author. Miss O. E. CLARKE (Islington) said she would like to point out that the public experienced no difficulty in referring to a biographical dictionary in cases where the uncertainty of the name occurred. People could always go to these as a last resort. Mr. J. D. YOUNG (Greenwich) thought the Code would greatly facilitate the practice of cataloguing, if librarians, who were naturally, though unfortunately, conservative, could be induced to follow its lead. There seemed to be an objection in England to follow a general practice, as though it were necessary to have rules for every particular thing. He hoped the publishing of the Code would ultimately bring about some sort of uniformity. Mr. PACY (Westminster) thought the Code could not be amply discussed until it had been studied in detail. So far as he could gather, the work had occupied the Catalogue Rules Committee some thirty-one years, and the last stage of the work had now been reached. He thought that a work that had received such attention in its compilation would commend itself to those engaged in cataloguing. There was no doubt that the bulk of the rules would be followed in the library practice of the future. He was glad that Mr. Tedder had so large and an appreciative audience. Mr. BERWICK SAYERS (Croydon), regretted that he had not been present at the lecture, as he himself had been lecturing elsewhere that evening. From what he had gathered in listening to the discussion, the matter before them had been of more than ordinary interest, and he was fully cognisant of the difficulties which arose from a first acquaintance with the Code. It bristled with debateable points; he liked its treatment of compound names; he objected to some of its rules on annotation; he greatly admired its catholic nature. He thought the special value of the Code lies in its suggestions. He did not care to venture upon a further discussion on the Code. His duty was to propose a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Tedder. Mr. H. T. COUTTS (Islington), in seconding the vote of thanks, said he thought the Association had been highly honoured by an address from Mr. Tedder. He had always found that gentleman possible of approach, and, the Code of Cataloguing rules in his hands had been an engrossing topic. With reference to the entries under title, he thought the name

of Francis Bacon refuted Mr. Hogg's preference for titles. The vote having been carried by acclamation, MR. TEDDER, in acknowledging it, said he had spent a most agreeable and delightful evening. He hoped that something could be made out of his endeavour to place before them the general plan of the Code. He had enjoyed the discussion much more than the paper. He did not propose to reply to the various interesting criticisms more than to say, that the Code was not dogmatic, but left room for the exercise of judgment. The rules would be of exceptional value to those who were engaged in the teaching of cataloguing. The PRESIDENT thought that the thanks of the meeting were due to Mr. Pacy for the invitation to the South Audley Street Library. This was the second visit to Westminster; and, he was sure that all present had been delighted to respond to the invitation. MR. PACY briefly replied, and the Meeting terminated.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIAN
to
"ESPERANTO," THE AUXILIARY INTERNATIONAL
LANGUAGE.*

By J. RHODES, *Author of "The English Esperanto Dictionary."*

Librarians should be interested in Esperanto, firstly, because the movement for the discovery and propagation of an auxiliary international language is a sign and an accompaniment of the progress of civilization. Secondly, because the rise of Esperanto marks an interesting phase of philological and literary development. I fancy that here there may be found occasion for a difference of view between speaker and listener. But patience! Let me clear away once more a difficulty arising, possibly, from a misapprehension. Esperanto is often loosely spoken of as an "artificial" language. On this point an opinion of the late Dr. Lloyd, of the Liverpool University, may be usefully cited:—"When Esperanto is roughly described as a new and artificial language, there remains a good deal to be said in qualification of both these terms, for there is very little in it which did not exist in some other language before, though often in a less uniform, less exact and less swiftly manageable form. . . . Classed philologically, Esperanto is just simplified Aryan, its modern European, very slightly inflected, form." So much on the philological side. It is, however, in its literary aspect, that Esperanto should make its strongest appeal to the

*Part of a paper read before the Yorkshire Branch at Keighley Public Library, 9th September, 1908.

librarian, thought it is just here where it has called forth the fiercest opposition. In the introduction to the larger "English-Esperanto Dictionary," a copy of which lies on the table before me, there is an extract from the *North American Review* bearing on the point under consideration:—"There is a large class of persons friendly to Esperanto, and even enthusiastic in its behalf, who, from a failure to appreciate the ancestry and high lineage of the language, feel a shiver down the spine if one ventures in the same breath to mention the sacred word 'literature.' While granting that Esperanto may serve for securing bed and breakfast at some French auberge, ordering a few casks of wine from Burgundy, bales of cotton from Texas, or lumber from Duluth, these good people resent the idea that such a hotch-potch of a language is fit for literary expression. It were wisdom to be careful before advancing such an objection, for that might lead to some awkward questions as to how our own hotch potch tongue has come into being, or why a language which selects the excellencies of several should necessarily be inferior to any of them. It may perhaps, be conceded that no translation into another tongue can in every minute particular give a photographically exact portrait of the original, and Esperanto (from this point of view) must ultimately be judged by the original matter produced in it; but the 'literary' objector may be invited to study the language for himself, to see how it has served for translations of parts of the Bible, of four Shakesperean plays, a couple of Byron's dramas, portions of the 'Iliad,' the 'Æneid,' and Schiller's 'Tell.' . . . Such a course of investigation is calculated to convince the objector that one's philosophy may usefully widen its area with benefit to the judgment. The 'ugly duckling' sometimes turns out to be a swan."

In this connection may I be allowed to add that the production on August 19th in the Opera House at Dresden—famed as the place where Wagner's creations were first produced—of Schiller's "Iphigenia in Tauris," in Esperanto by eminent German actors, gave perhaps the most striking proof hitherto offered of the fitness of Dr. Zamenhof's language for the highest literary expression. I can assure you that, not having previously had leisure to read the translation—done by Dr. Zamenhof himself—and not having any acquaintance with Schiller's work, I listened to the play without missing a word, and with such growing absorption as to forget that it was being rendered in a "foreign" language. The acting and staging were alike superb, but both together would have failed if the language had been an imperfect vehicle. The same adequacy, but with different surroundings and associations, was

demonstrated at the profoundly impressive religious services provided in the same beautiful language for that polyglot host. Some passages of Scripture seemed even a little clearer, while they lost nothing of sonorosity when rendered in Esperanto.

But there is another aspect of this literary appeal for Esperanto to the sympathy of the public librarian. There is a constantly-increasing tendency, I am pleased to note, to provide works on the shelves of our libraries in the languages of neighbouring nations. But such provision must necessarily remain very limited in character, and, for the general reader, his knowledge of foreign literature must come through translations. Let me assure you—on the authority of persons much better qualified than I to express an opinion—that Esperanto is so flexible and resourceful a language that translations into it frequently convey more of the spirit of the original than is to be met with in any national translation. This is said by foreigners to be eminently the case with Dr. Zamenhof's translation of "Hamlet."

And, further, Esperanto is placing within reach of the student very interesting and valuable anthologies of national literature, especially that of the minor nations, whose works are less frequently translated. For example, we have now in Esperanto "Pages from Flemish Literature," and a "Polish Anthology," giving specimens from writers of whom the English-speaking student has probably never heard.

And if the librarian should meet with an inquiring student anxious to dip into one or other of these foreign languages, he or she could do no better service than to recommend a study of Esperanto, whose grammatical regularity has been proved to be an excellent preparation for the study of a national tongue.

And it ought not to be without interest to the librarian to note that the Bibliography of Esperanto is being arranged on the Dewey system, and the gradual compilation of its technical dictionaries is being prosecuted on the same lines.

Just one other point demands brief attention. Some of my hearers may say: "Well, but if 150 systems of artificial language have already been propounded, have we heard the last of them?" Probably not. Since Esperanto was published, in 1887, about 40 more have appeared, and the end is not yet. But most of these have been mere suggestions, many of them without vocabulary. One of the latest, named "Ido," or "the child," is unfortunately, the production of one who was till recently a foremost advocate of Esperanto. I am sorry for his secession from a cause for which he has laboured hard and long, but I am quite convinced that he has made the mistake of his life. "Ido" is in structure less an "international" language than one for the man of learning, and especially favours the peoples of Neo-Latin

speech. On the other hand, Dr. Zamenhof's simpler Esperanto appeals to Oriental and Occidental alike; it appeals to the man in the street, to the merchant and to the traveller, as much as to the University scholar; and its magnificent progress of recent years, its striking proofs of utility in our congresses as well as for business, travel and science, commend it to the support of all who appreciate the superiority of accomplished fact to mere theory, and the doubtful issue of capricious experiments.

And above all, a movement like that of Esperantism, which aims at promoting a more cordial understanding between the various branches of the great human family, I venture to think, should awaken a sympathetic interest in the minds of ladies and gentlemen daily occupied with the concerns of the humanity-embracing Republic of Letters.

SOUTH WALES BRANCH: SECOND INAUGURAL MEETING.

The Inaugural meeting of the Second Session was held on October 21st at the Central Library, Cardiff. The Rev. W. E. Winks, Chairman of the Libraries' Books Sub-Committee, presided, and among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Ballinger, Mr. Arthur Mee and Mr. William Clarke (Llandaff). There was also a good attendance of members. The chief feature of the meeting was an address by Mr. H. Stanley Jevons, M.A., Lecturer in Political Science at the University College, Cardiff, of which an interesting summary will appear next month.

OFFICERS.

ADDRESSES.

President: Mr. W. Benson Thorne, Bromley Library, Brunswick Road, Poplar.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. Geo. Chambers, Public Library, Plumstead. (Telephone, Woolwich 45).

Hon. Secretaries: **Irish Branch:** Messrs. T. M. Coulson and W. Moore, Public Libraries, Belfast; **North-Eastern Branch:** Mr. T. E. Turnbull, Public Library, Newcastle-upon-Tyne; **South Wales Branch:** Mr. W. Morgan, Public Library, Cardiff; **Yorkshire Branch:** Mr. J. B. Ellison, 2, Edinburgh Grove, Armley, Leeds.

General Hon. Secretary: Mr. W. C. Berwick Sayers, Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon. (Telephone, Croydon 965).